

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/790,210
Amendment filed August 3, 2007
Reply to OA dated April 11, 2007

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REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8 are now pending in this application, of which claims 1, 2 and 8 have been amended. Claims 3 and 7 have been canceled. No new claims have been added.

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated April 11, 2007.

In the Office Action Claim 7 and Claim 8, depending from Claim 7, were indicated as being allowable. Claim 1 is now amended to include the novel feature of Claim 7 (the image pickup device is supported so as to be pivotable unitarily with the display cabinet). It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1, as well as Claims 4-6 and 8, all of which depend from Claim 1, are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 1, 4-6 and 8 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has required a new, more descriptive title. Accordingly, the title has been amended to read: "FOLDABLE ELECTRONIC IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS".

Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Evans (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,915). It is believed that this rejection is now moot, in view of the above remarks.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Shibata (U.S. Published Application No. 2001/0004269). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans. It is believed

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that this rejection is now moot, in view of the above remarks.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 2. Claim 2 is now amended to include that "the optical axis of the lens is crossing to the front side surface of the main cabinet.

In the subject invention, the optical axis of the lens (2) crosses to the front side surface of the main cabinet (1). To the contrary, Shibata discloses a first lens (33) and a second lens (23) of which optical axes are substantially parallel to the front side of a main cabinet (10). It is respectfully submitted that Shibata fails to teach or suggest this claimed construction of the instant invention.

Also, as shown in FIG. 9(a) of the instant application, an image pickup operation can be performed in a state where the cabinets (1) and (5) are overlapped with each other because the optical axis of the lens (2) is the same with the viewing direction of a monitor (6).

Further, as shown in FIG. 5(a), in a state where the cabinets (1) and (5) are overlapped with each other, if the monitor (6) on the display cabinet (5) is opposed to the main cabinet (1) at this time, the monitor (6) can be protected by the main cabinet (1) which serves as a cover for the monitor (6).

In view of the amendment to Claim 2 and the above remarks, removal of the rejection of Claim 2 is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8, as amended, are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the

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Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time

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